C o n f i d e n t i a l

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Executive Committee No. 53

M I N U T E S
of the
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
of the
WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Nyborg Strand, August 19 - 21, 1958

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

M I N U T E S

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Nyborg Strand, August 19 - 21, 1958

Morning Session - August 19th

1. Dr. Franklin Clark Fry took the chair. He spoke of the loss suffered by the World Council through the death of Archbishop Michael. He had represented the World Council at the funeral.

2. Roll Call

There were present:

Honorary President:	Bishop G.K.A. Bell
Presidents	Professor John Baillie Bishop Sante Uberto Barbieri Bishop Otto Dibelius Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill
Chairman:	Dr. Franklin Clark Fry
Vice-Chairman:	Dr. Ernest A. Payne
Members:	Dr. Eugene C. Blake The Rev. Peter Dagadu Professor Georges Florovsky Professor Josef L. Hromadka Dr. Martin Niemöller Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam Mr. Rajaiah D. Paul Dean Liston Pope
Substitute	Metropolitan James of Melita representing Metropolitan James of Philadelphia
Consultant	Sir Kenneth Grubb
Staff	Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft, General Secretary
	Dr. Robert S. Bilheimer) Dr. L.E. Cooke) Associate General The Rev. Francis H. House) Secretaries Dr. O.F. Nolde)
	Dr. G.W. Carpenter, Acting General Secretary the I.M.C.
	The Rev. Paul Abrecht Dr. Roswell P. Barnes Dr. Madeleine Barot Dr. Keith Bridston Dr. Edgar Chandler The Rev. John Garrett Dr. Norman Goodall Dr. H.H. Harms

Mr. Frank Northam
The Rev. Philip Potter
The Rev. H. R. Weber
Professor H. H. Wolf

Apologies were received from: Metropolitan Juhanon (President Archbishop Y. Brilioth, Metropolitan James of Philadelphia, Dr. Kathl Bliss and Bishop Lakdasa de Mel.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive Committee in London in February 1958, having been circulated, were approved.

4. (a) Report of the General Secretary

A. The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

No answer had been received to the letter addressed to the Turkish Prime Minister regarding the granting of a passport to Metropolitan James of Philadelphia to enable him to attend ecumenical meetings, but the letter might have had some good effect. Other representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate had been able to attend meetings. Communications with the Turkish Ambassador in Berne had revealed that Metropolitan James' passport had been refused on the alleged grounds that "he had dealt with political matters". The developments in Cyprus had made the position of the Patriarchate exceedingly difficult.

B. The international situation

i) Cyprus. The officers of the C.C.I.A. had fully discussed with the Greek delegates present a letter from the Archbishop of Athens. The Greek delegates had asked for: a) reaffirmation of the previous resolution on Cyprus, b) a definite request for the return of Archbishop Makarios, c) the sending of a W.C.C. delegation to Cyprus. The C.C.I.A. had unanimously agreed to the first two points, though publication of their reply needed care. They had referred point c) to the Executive Committee.

ii) Middle East. The General Secretariat had felt that action through the C.C.I.A. was preferable to action by the W.C.C. officers such as had been taken over the Suez and Hungarian crises. The General Secretariat had therefore cabled the C.C.I.A. supporting the idea of a conference of statesmen, and the C.C.I.A. had sent a cable to the Secretary General of U.N. and the Heads of Governments concerned supporting this idea but not specifying details.

iii) East-West conflict. Dr. Payne had written the article on "misunderstandings" as requested by the Executive Committee. A very negative answer had been received from Hungary reporting the request that the W.C.C. should answer the letter addressed to it after the Yale meetings. A new attack on the W.C.C. and the ecumenical movement including ecumenical developments in Asia had been published in the leading Chinese Christian weekly. In Hungary Bishop Ordass had been put out of office despite the assurance repeatedly given by Minister Horvath to Dr. Blake and Dr. Visser 't Hooft at Prague that the Bishop's position was completely legal. Central Committee member Dr. L.Pap no longer held any salaried post. On the other hand, there

had been a useful ecumenical meeting in Warsaw on the occasion of the reopening of the restored Lutheran Church. There had been a conference on "peace and disarmament" at Prague to which the W.C.C. was not invited, but of which full minutes had been sent to Geneva.

C. Regional developments

a) The interim committee of the East Asia Christian Conference had decided to call the constituent Assembly together in May 1959. The programme of the Assembly would provide opportunity for discussion of the Rapid Social Change study and of Inter-Church Aid. It was natural to look to the E.A.C.C. as being the means by which W.C.C. programmes and initiatives should be channelled back to the churches in the region, but they were now told that if this young organization were to be used primarily as such a channel too soon it would be unable to develop its own regional work and ethos.

b) Following Bishop Dibelius' initiative at Yale concerning cooperation in Europe there had been a meeting in Berlin, and there had also been a meeting of the Liselund Committee in Warsaw which Bishop Lilje had attended. There was an all-round agreement that (in consultation with Bishop Dibelius and Dr.Baillie), Bishop Lilje, Dr.Emmen and Archbishop Kiivit would call a European Church Conference in 1959. Dr. Harms had been asked to serve as secretary.

D. Integration of W.C.C. and I.M.C.

There had been a full meeting of the Joint Committee. Responses from the member churches were not asked for until February 1959. The Joint Committee had not made any major changes in the plan which would be finalised in 1959. Bishop Newbigin (Chairman of the I.M.C., who is to become its General Secretary in 1959) had emphasised the danger of drifting into integration without a sense of conviction regarding the deep spiritual and ecclesiological significance of the union of the three streams of the ecumenical movement. There would be an I.M.C. staff meeting in September to consider this deeper and wider aspect of integration, and it was hoped that this would be followed by contact with W.C.C. staff. This must be a dominating element in the Third Assembly.

E. Contacts with Roman Catholics

i) Negative. There had been a curious attack on the W.C.C. by Fr. Boyer S.J. in "Unitas". According to him integration would imply that the W.C.C. accepted responsibility for anti-Roman missions. The W.C.C. had been hopeful when it talked of unity; but now it would fight the Roman Church in e.g. Latin America (as evidenced by an article published in the Ecumenical Review). In some quarters also the exchanges between the W.C.C. and the Moscow Patriarchate were seen as a move against Rome.

ii) Positive. Other Roman Catholic ecumenists had told Dr. Visser 't Hooft that they understood why integration was basically necessary for the W.C.C. Immediately after the conversations at Utrecht with the representatives of the Moscow Patriarchate, the secretary of the international conference of Roman Catholic ecumenists and Père Dumont had had a conversation with Dr.Visser 't Hooft, and a very understanding article had been published by the principal Dutch Roman Catholic newspaper. Dr. Jérome Hamer, author of a penetrating article on the Toronto declaration, would be attending the Central Committee as a journalist.

4. (b) Discussion of the Report of the General Secretary

Looking back to Stockholm and Amsterdam, Bishop Bell expressed disquiet that the W.C.C. did not seem able to help oppressed brethren by saying a just and wise word when conflagrations occurred. He asked whether the W.C.C. today gave sufficient support to martyrs and confessors. Were they facing this question and the question of war systematically enough? Was W.C.C. action regarding individuals or conflicts on the right lines? After ten years it was appropriate to ask such questions.

Professor Florovsky said that action by the W.C.C. had often been inadequate, but often failure had been due not to lack of courage but to the complexity of the situation especially on the political level. It might be an easy thing to attempt to encourage confessors in bonds, but the real problem was how to influence governments. Sometimes also expressions of sympathy might be interpreted as evidence of political crime.

A. The Ecumenical Patriarchate. On the advice of Metropolitan James of Melita it was decided to take no further action until there had been fresh consultation with the Patriarch.

B. The international situation

i) Cyprus. Decision was postponed until a later session.

ii) Middle East. It was reported that the C.C.I.A. had adopted a resolution.

iii) East-West conflict. Dr. Payne was thanked for his article. Bishop Sherrill said that he had had a very cordial personal invitation to visit China from the Presiding Anglican Bishop. Dr.Fry described the reasons which had led the officers of the L.W.F. to protest to the Hungarian Minister of Church Affairs over the deposition of Bishop Ordass at the moment when they believed that the question of the control by the Government over the church was at stake. The General Secretary of the W.C.C. had associated himself fully with this protest.

Professor Hromadka expressed his personal attitude on the issues raised by the case of Bishop Ordass. He did not believe that the blame for the deterioration of state-church relations in Hungary rested exclusively with the state. Over the last ten years the W.C.C. had supported those who opposed the Eastern European régimes and had criticised those who tried to solve the political-ecclesiastical problems on the spot. He would not oppose any action taken on behalf of Bishop Ordass, but felt the responsibility for calling the attention of the Executive Committee to the grave danger of taking a false step in good faith. A fundamental issue for the future of the ecumenical movement was at stake.

Dr. Niemöller described criticisms of Bishop Ordass' attitude by one who had been very near to him. Minister Horvath had assured him (Niemöller) that Bishop Ordass could have obtained the extra salaries for pastors in the southern district if he had asked for them. When Dr. Niemöller was in Budapest in April 1958 he could form no firm opinion of the relation of Bishop Ordass to the Lutheran Church. Minister Horvath had stated that he favoured giving permission to Dr.Pap to accept the invitation from Utrecht but the decision rested with the Ministry of the Interior. Bishop Bereczky had tried to help Dr.Pap.

Bishop Dibelius said it was their duty to give notice to the world that Bishop Ordass was not forgotten, but they should take great care not to harm him by their action. He suggested a letter to the L.W.F. There should be no public action regarding Dr.Pap.

Dr. Blake felt that some similar action should be taken with regard to Dr.Pap. They must seek first to do what was right in the whole situation without judging or embarrassing individuals.

After further discussion it was AGREED that Bishop Dibelius, Dr.Baillie, Dr.Blake and Dr.Visser 't Hooft should be asked to consider together what action might be taken.

Discussion continued on the question of the Prague Conference on "peace and disarmament".

Professor Hromadka explained that the idea of the conference had originated in the Prague and Bratislava theological faculties. It had been taken up by the Czechoslovakian Ecumenical Council. It was intended to be a conference not a continuing council. There was no intention of attacking the W.C.C. or launching a new World Council, but to take in churches which did not cooperate with the W.C.C. If they acted correctly their actions would help the W.C.C. Copies of the statements of the preparatory meeting in June 1958 had been sent to many churches in East and West, the W.C.C., the L.W.F. and other similar organizations, and also to the governments of the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A. and the U.K. They were asking the W.C.C. whether it would help officially or otherwise to support a world conference dealing with the problems of the abolition of weapons of mass-destruction, the stopping of nuclear tests, etc. Leading churchmen would be invited on an individual basis: the question of official invitations to churches was not yet decided. The preliminary meeting had been attended by Lutherans from Latvia and Esthonia and Baptists from the U.S.S.R. There had been a delegation from the Moscow Patriarchate. The organizers did not expect official action by the W.C.C. but they did ask for counsel, criticism or encouragement. Dr.Hromadka would report that Dr.Visser 't Hooft had mentioned the matter to the Executive and that he (Hromadka) had had an opportunity to explain it. The conference would deal with what was an urgent issue for Europe but they were aware that it was a world problem.

Dr. Baillie said that if the W.C.C. and its member churches were not expected to reply officially to the information sent to them by the Prague Committee, they would have no official connection with the conference. He did not see how this could be regarded as being a "world" conference. Dr.Visser 't Hooft said he had previously written personally to Professor Hromadka questioning whether a conference called by one group of churches in one group of states having one particular view on atomic armaments could help. Bishop Bell agreed. He asked whether a more "universal" conference was possible. Dr. Niemöller hoped that something might be done to bring member and non-member churches together. Dr. Niemöller continued: The organizers of the Prague meeting had informed the W.C.C. about this development, but they were under no obligation to do so, and it appeared that no answer was expected.His advice was that this event could be left to take care of itself.

Dr.Baillie suggested that it should be recorded that this matter had been reported; that there had been further talk with Professor Hromadka to elicit the nature of the proposal; that the

Committee had not been asked to take action or to reply. It had not and could not have done so because insufficient data for a reply was available.

Professor Hromadka repeated his assurance that he did not expect any further action or reply. Dr.Fry observed that Professor Hromadka had obtained sufficient material for a report although no official answer had been given.

At a later session the text of the following official minute was presented by Dr. Fry and accepted by the Committee:

" The Executive Committee received a report of the proposal made by a group of churchmen meeting at Prague for the holding of a world conference on atomic armaments and disarmament, and Professor Hromadka was able to offer some elucidation of the nature of the proposal in reply to questions put to him. Professor Hromadka assured the Committee that no action or answer was expected of it in regard to the report they had received; nor would this in any case have been possible, since sufficient information was not in the Committee's hands. Professor Hromadka further assured the Committee that the proposal was very far from being directed against the W.C.C. Concern was however expressed by many lest a world conference initiated by a group of churches belonging to one part of the world and so largely sharing a common viewpoint might have the unfortunate result of increasing rather than diminishing the difficulties of reaching a common understanding in the World Christian community as a whole. The report was therefore received for information only."

Second Session, Tuesday, August 19th 8.00 p.m.

Discussion of the Report of the General Secretary was resumed.

C. East Asia Christian Conference

The Chairman asked Mr.Philip Potter to report on the meeting of officers of the East Asia Christian Conference, which had been held in Singapore in July. Mr.Potter made the following points:

i) The E.A.C.C. was still unknown to the Asian churches. Means must be found for making it better known, especially in those countries which had not been involved in the East Asian Christian Mission group.

ii) There was much fear of the E.A.C.C. appearing to be the agent of the W.C.C., the I.M.C. and other outside bodies. This fear took two forms - either of the E.A.C.C. not being autonomous or of the E.A.C.C. becoming a block between the churches and the outside bodies

iii) The strategic importance of Australian and New Zealand membership of the E.A.C.C. was very great.

iv) The Third Assembly would have an important task in defining the distinctive role of the E.A.C.C. in relation to the W.C.C. and I.M.C. Which of the activities carried on in Asia by the W.C.C. and I.M.C. should be part of the continuing activities of the E.A.C.C.?

E.g. Home and Family Life, Industrial Evangelism, Audio-Visual Aids, W.C.C. Study Division. There was fear of an overdevelopment of headquarters and staff and there was fear of being totally dependent on funds from outside the area - though they were willing to receive funds for projects which they believed to be worthwhile.

v) Church leadership in the E.A.C.C. area was not very deeply involved in the thinking of the W.C.C. and I.M.C. These church leaders were nearer to the thinking of their own churches and were critical of what they felt to be "outside bodies". The zeal of the W.C.C. leadership "to get Asian voices heard" was felt by them to be "putting pressure on them". They had been under pressure from I.C.A. and R.S.C. to hold conferences in East Asia in 1959. Frankness, understanding and restraint were required in facing the ambiguities of the situation.

Dr. Bilheimer and Dr.Cooke stated that the conferences which their divisions were planning in East Asia in 1959 had not resulted in "pressure" on the E.A.C.C. Mr. Potter replied that from what he had observed the Rapid Social Change study was not felt by the churches in Asia to be their concern, and that interest in I.C.A. was concentrated on the cooperative action which the churches in the area had themselves been able to take in relation to Indonesia. This had indeed aroused their enthusiasm.

In reply to a question from Dr.Fry, Mr.Potter said that there were in fact very few churches associated with the E.A.C.C. which were not also member churches of the W.C.C.

5. Relations with the Moscow Patriarchate

Dr. Fry gave a verbal report of the meeting of the W.C.C. delegation with representatives of the Moscow Patriarchate at Utrecht 6 - 9 August, 1958. He denied reports published in the press that the question of membership of the W.C.C. by the Russian Orthodox Church has been settled. The question had not been raised. The main results of the conversations on the five points of the previously-agreed agenda were published in the agreed communiqué of which copies had been circulated. On a sixth point of conversation "future relationships", the following possibilities had been mentioned:

a) the recommendation to the Central Committee that the Russian Orthodox Church should be invited to send "observers" to subsequent meetings.

b) arrangements for Russian Orthodox observers to attend other important W.C.C. meetings both of "Faith and Order" and of "Life and Work". It would be decided by correspondence which meetings these should be.

c) exchange of correspondence and printed matter to be developed: requirements of the Russian Theological libraries would be indicated: three copies of each of the most important W.C.C. documents would in future be sent to the Russian Orthodox Church (for the use of the two Academies and the Church's Department of Foreign Relations).

d) Informal meetings between individual theologians

e) A visit of several weeks to the W.C.C. headquarters

f) Russian theologians to be asked to comment in writing on W.C.C. documents.

g) Discussions on particular theological problems to be arranged when the Russian delegation comes to Geneva.

h) lectures by Russian theologians at Bossey

i) more news about the Russian Church to be made available through a news bulletin in English and French which will be issued from Moscow

j) formal meetin s to be arranged from time to time when desired.

Dr.Fry continued: the subjects which were not raised in the discussion included relations with émigré churches, China, Hungary (as far as the Russians were concerned), the World Peace Council, the Prague Conference, and relations between the W.C.C. and missions including the proposed integration with the I.M.C. The mood of the meeting had been that of affability and cordiality and on several points of candour. He had had the impression that there had been real progress in understanding.

Dr. Visser 't Hooft said that it was obvious that there were enormous gaps in the Russian knowledge of the ecumenical movement owing to their lack of personal contact. This was why the proposal about observers was so important. There was a corresponding need for much more knowledge by Western churches of the Church in Russia. Later, in reply to questions about relations with other churches in Eastern Europe, he said that it had been made clear that the Orthodox churches which had taken part in the Moscow meeting in 1948 would cooperate with the Russian Orthodox Church in any moves which it took in relation to the W.C.C., and that the Lutheran and Baptist churches in the U.S.S.R. would also probably come into the W.C.C., if the Russian Orthodox Church did so.

Dr. Fry reported that a statement on the defence of peace, which the Russian delegates had asked to be inserted in the record without discussion, had been referred to the C.C.I.A.

Bishop Bell asked whether any explanation could be offered for the change in the Russian Church's attitude to the W.C.C. between 1948 and 1958 and what aspects of the W.C.C.'s work now interested them most? Dr.Fry recalled that in a public speech Metropolitan Nicolai had stated that the W.C.C. had changed its attitude since 1948 and that the Russian Church now had more information about it. It seemed clear that the primary interest of the Russians was in Faith and Order, but they had also proposed to send observers to conferences on "Life and Work".

Professor Florovsky contrasted the present Russian interest in Faith and Order with the emphasis of the letter from Metropolitan Nicolai received at Davos 1955. He recalled the strong social tradition of Orthodoxy represented by St. John Chrysostom's rebukes to Emperors and the 17th century Patriarch's rebukes to czars. He felt that it would not be wise to hurry on with theological conversations.

Discussion followed concerning the decision to make public only the agreed communiqué. Some emphasised the usefulness of such a rule at a first meeting of this kind. Others felt that a longer communiqué should have been issued. It was suggested that in the future it would be a mistake not to let the W.C.C. constituency know fully all that passed.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft mentioned that outside the formal meetings Metropolitan Nicolai had invited him to visit Moscow at some time. If this invitation were confirmed should he consult the Executive or the Officers? Dr. Blake hoped that the Executive Committee would encourage this and other visits which were real "church" contacts.

Revisions of the paragraph concerning the Moscow Patriarchate for insertion in the Report to the Central Committee were agreed.

Third Session, Wednesday morning, August 20th

6. Relations with the Roman Catholic Church

a) Bishop Bell spoke of the purely personal visit he had made to Athens and Rome. At Athens he had valuable conversations with the Archbishop, the Holy Synod and theological professors. In Rome, on the background of previous private contacts, especially through Benedictine theologians interested in the Church of South India, Dr.Bell was helped by Pastor Comba and the Anglican chaplains and was able to visit certain monasteries and seminaries, the Unitas center, the Oriental Institute and the White Fathers, and had a short private conversation with the Pope, and a conversation with the Assistant Secretary of State. The Bishop had a general impression of friendliness and sympathy with the ecumenical movement, and received assurance that there was a genuine and growing interest in many quarters. The value of personal contacts in Rome was stressed. Difficulties arising from certain aspects of the organization of the Roman Church were frankly discussed. Dr.Bell was impressed by the importance of the seminaries for future ecumenical work, including teaching about the reformation and the ecumenical movement and prayer for unity. There was also pressure for high-level discussions between Protestant and Roman Catholic theologians. Interest in questions of Faith and Order and of the spiritual life was emphasised. Much responsibility is placed by the 1948 Instruction on the duty of the diocesan bishops to promote the ecumenical movement in his own diocese. In England the Roman hierarchy have given this responsibility to Mgr. Davies of Oscott. Similarly a Jesuit had been made responsible for the continuing Protestant-Roman Catholic conversations in Germany under the Archbishop of Paderborn. As the individual Roman Catholic bishop has such responsibility placed upon him, it would be good if W.C.C. commissions could meet in dioceses of sympathetic bishops and possibilities of cooperation could often be developed. In general the interest in the ecumenical movement was greater than the Bishop had expected.

The Bishop raised the question of the grievances against the Roman Catholic Churches in Latin America and Spain and also the question of the Octave and Week of Prayer for Unity. At a private conference on the latter question, fears were expressed that the W.C.C. was showing less interest in questions of Faith and Order and was becoming more anti-Roman. Reference was made particularly to the article by Benjamin Moraes on Ecumenism in South America which appeared to Roman Catholics to be a rather strong attack on the Roman Catholic Church. They asked whether the achievement of visible unity in history was still being taken seriously. On the question of the proposed integration with the I.M.C., it was suggested that this strengthened the Protestant forces in the W.C.C. Bishop Bell replied that on the contrary the influence of the churches over the missionary societies in such matters as proselytism would be strengthened.

The Bishop did not seek an audience with the Pope but was asked if he would be ready to have one. He was struck by the Pope's kindness, piety and age. Nothing very memorable passed and no controversial themes were raised. In a longer private conversation the Assistant Secretary of State said that charity, mutual respect and prayer were fundamental for unity. Bishop Bell had the opportunity to raise with him questions about intolerance in Spain and Colombia. It was suggested that complaints could be made to the Apostolic Delegates if no satisfaction could be obtained from the local bishop. After that the best channel would be through personal contacts in Rome. The Assistant Secretary of State offered to reply to personal letters requesting information.

The Bishop also spoke with the White Fathers about the Rapid Social Change studies and raised the question of cooperation. The White Fathers expressed great willingness to discuss possibilities of cooperation and also to meet Bishop Newbigin. Subsequently Anglican bishops from Africa also emphasised the importance of realising a concordat with the Roman Catholic dioceses there.

Bishop Bell said that he ended his conversations in Rome encouraged by evidence of a certain openness, and that the value of personal contacts could not be exaggerated. It would be most valuable if a theologically minded representative of the ecumenical movement could be located in Rome. He thought that understanding of the ecumenical movement had greatly deepened in the ten years since Amsterdam. The Bishop concluded by emphasising that he had gone in a purely personal capacity and that he had not glossed over difficulties and hesitations.

Dr. Fry expressed appreciation of the fact that the Bishop had devoted the first months of his retirement to this ecumenical work.

Dr. Harms emphasised the importance of lectures to seminaries and of the desire of some cirdes in Rome for more contacts. Conversations with Père Boyer had been cordial but not helpful, especially over the question of integration with I.M.C. There appears to be more hope of objective discussion of this matter with others. Dr. Harms had raised sharply the question whether the W.C.C. could continue to be associated with a Week of Prayer in the spirit of the Fathers of the Atonement. Other Roman Catholic leaders pleaded that the W.C.C. should keep to these dates in spite of all the difficulties. The Faith and Order Commission had heard a report on the subject, but no action has been begun which would lead to a change of the dates of the W.C.C. Week of Prayer. Papers concerning the Rapid Social Change studies had been sent to the White Fathers. Visits by Roman Catholics to Malagnou increased in number. Dr. Harms had felt obliged to criticize publicly the line of reporting of the ecumenical movement taken by a certain German Roman Catholic journalist.

Dr. Goodall informed the committee that an English Jesuit was publishing shortly a book on the ecumenical movement in which Father Boyer's attitude on integration was criticized. There has been cooperation with the White Fathers in some areas.

Professor Florovsky reported three private visits to Rome in the past 5 years. His contacts had chiefly been with the Pontifical Institute and the Russikum, where surprisingly he had been received with all honours. He had many friendly discussions regarding the ecumenical movement.

Dr. Barnes asked whether "encouraging" reports reflected a general policy of the Roman Catholic Church.

Dr. Visser 't Hooft emphasised the enormous variations in all continents. The biggest division regarding the Week of Prayer was between the Fathers of the Atonement and the Couturier movement.

Bishop Barbieri asked whether we should conclude that the Roman Catholic Church was more friendly to the Protestant world? Were they just personal opinions? He contrasted the Pope's recent attacks on Protestants.

Dr. Visser 't Hooft said that this question could only be answered if we had first defined what "the Roman Catholic Church" is.

7. Programme and Agenda of the Central Committee

a) The General Secretary outlined the time-table and agenda of the Central Committee. The proposals were accepted. In view of the amount of business it was

AGREED that it should be proposed on behalf of the Executive Committee that the rule concerning a limit of 7 minutes on speeches from the floor (with allowance for translation) should be applied.

b) Sub-committees

The Executive Committee approved the setting-up of sub-committees as follows: i) Finance (permanent) Chairman: Dr. Blake, ii) Reference I, Chairman: Mr. Rajaiah Paul, iii) Reference II, Chairman Dr. Harold Roberts, iv) Third Assembly, Chairman Dr. Berkhof.

c) Third Assembly

It was agreed that action on the postponement of the Third Assembly should be taken on the Friday morning in the course of the discussion of the report of the Executive Committee.

d) Consultants

Permission was given for the following to be present as consultants: Professor Soe, Professor Busia, Dr.Carl von Weizsäcker, Dr. Patijn.

e) Church of the Brethren

Permission was given to representatives of the Church of the Brethren to present a message on the occasion of their 250th anniversary.

8. Third Assembly

Dr.Visser 't Hooft explained that the only point requiring the attention of the Executive Committee was the question of place. In view of the present very grave situation in Ceylon, the staff reques ed confidential advice on two questions: Should they begin to look privately for an alternative site? And should this be in Asia?

Mr. Potter reported private conversations with Christian leaders in Ceylon. 1961 would be an election year there. But any decision taken now not to hold the Assembly in Ceylon would be felt as an act of abandonment of the Christian community.

Bishop Barbieri said that Singhalese delegates at the W.C.C.E. meetings at Tokyo were very pessimistic about the future in Ceylon.

A word of sympathy would be welcomed. They have grave doubts about the holding of the Assembly.

Bishop Sherrill said he had previously expressed doubts about the wisdom of going to Ceylon in view of budgetary and other considerations. He questioned the strategic value of going to Asia. There was a danger of spending more on travel than on programme. Bishop Bell said that the Archbishop of Canterbury shared Bishop Sherrill's doubts. "Ecumenical travellers" were exposed to much criticism in their own churches. If the Assembly were to be held in Asia could it be much reduced in size?

Mr. Rajaiah D.Paul felt that the Committee would be right to assume that the Assembly could not be held in Ceylon. As far as the alternative suggestion of Tambaram was concerned, it should be noted that the scale of the Assembly would be much greater than that of the I.M.C. Assembly in 1938.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft said that it would be a disaster if the Third Assembly could not be held in Asia. The W.C.C. was often accused of being a "Western Council". It had been hard to get Asians and Africans on the staff or to have them present in sufficient numbers at meetings. After Assemblies in Europe and America it would endanger the future of the W.C.C. as a "world" council if the third were not held in Asia. In the year in which integration was expected it was specially important to go to Asia. No plans had been made to hold meetings of the Central Committee in Asia in the period 1954-61.

Bishop Oxnam pointed out that if the Assembly were not held in Asia it could be held in August instead of December 1961. Dr.Payne and Dr. Baillie thought that alternative possibilities should be examined by the staff and reported in 1959, but that nothing should be said this year about not going to Ceylon. Finally an "informal motion" by Dr. Blake was accepted to the effect that the secretariat should investigate an alternative site if possible in Asia with the knowledge that a decision would have to be made in 1959.

Fourth Session, Wednesday, August 20th, at 4.15

9. Study on Religious Liberty

Dr. Visser 't Hooft introduced a discussion of a paper on the proposed study on religious liberty; this paper had been produced in full consultation with the officers of the C.C.I.A. He asked whether the Executive advised that it should be produced in plenary session of the Central Committee after Professor Soe's speech or whether it should be distributed only to Reference Committee I.

Bishop Dibelius said that in all discussion it was assumed that religious liberty was a given principle for the Church; but it was a humanist principle. Jesus Christ and the Christians of the first century did not proclaim religious liberty in the Roman Empire. There was nothing in the paper which pointed to this most important question.

Dr.Baillie recalled Dr. Dibelius' speech on this subject at the London meeting of the Executive Committee. He thought that something of what the Bishop had said should get into the paper.

Dr.Visser 't Hooft said that Professor Soe would speak directly to this problem. Dr. Dibelius'position differed from the declaration on religious liberty of the Amsterdam Assembly and the theological uncertainty on this point must be faced early.

It was AGREED that there should first be general discussion by the Central Committee of Professor Soe's address, and that the chairman should have discretion to decide when the paper should be distributed. It was also agreed that the Executive Committee should consider the paper in greater detail at a later session.

At the fifth session of the Executive Committee, discussion on the paper on the study on religious liberty was resumed, and a number of changes in wording were made by the General Secretary on the suggestion of members of the Committee. It was

AGREED that the Executive Committee should ask for amendments to be made in the paper along the lines suggested before it was submitted to the Central Committee, but that the Executive as such was not committed to the document.

In the course of discussion a question was raised concerning the proposal that the General Secretary should himself be secretary of this study, but no motion to advise otherwise was made. Bishop Barbieri observed that this appeared to be a study of religious liberty in general and not of the "specific problems arising in particular Roman Catholic and other countries which the Central Committee had requested". He said that the Central Committee had had in mind a study of critical situations and what could be said by the W.C.C. about those situations if necessary to the Vatican. Secondly, if this study had first to be made, and if after that there was to be an enquiry about educational aspects of religious liberty, how long would it be before any action would be taken?

Dr.Visser 't Hooft said that care for specific concrete problems would continue to be entrusted to the C.C.I.A., which would continue to report to the Central Committee on such problems. C.C.I.A. action would in future be related to the more general study of religious liberty now proposed. Dr. Nolde said that such a study commission should not become an agency for action, but it would no doubt provide much material for action by other bodies.

Suggestions for names for membership of the Study Commission were noted by Dr.Visser 't Hooft.

10. Report of Joint Committee IMC/WCC

Dr. Norman Goodall said that action would be requested on i) relating the effecting of integration to the early stages of the Assembly; ii) the proposal that in determining the composition of the Assembly account should be taken of the need to provide for the choice of members with special competence in the field of mission; iii) the recommendation that in future the Chairman of the Central Committee and of the I.M.C. should be ex-officio members of the Joint Committee.

He reported on the setting up of three sub-committees of the Joint Committee: i) on the relation of inter-church aid and missions; ii) on amendments suggested in the Plan, and iii) on adaptations in

the aims and functions of the departments and divisions of the W.C.C. after integration. Dr.Fry added that Dr. H.P. Van Dusen had raised the question of the manner in which the Central Committee might take appreciative cognizance of the official action taken by the Ghana Assembly of the I.M.C. Was this or any other action desirable - especially in the light of the fact that the churches had been asked to comment on the integration plan by the spring of 1959?

Dean Pope said that integration was widely represented as the W.C.C. taking over the I.M.C. Any minute of the Central Committee should emphasise the mutuality of this movement. Dr. Blake said that there might be legal difficulties over "extra-constitutional" action by the W.C.C., but how otherwise could the impression that the W.C.C. apparently remained unchanged be avoided? Dr. Baillie observed that the "extra" members could only become full members of the Assembly after the point of merger. Dr. Niemöller suggested that arrangements might be made for the constitution of the W.C.C. to be adjusted at the beginning of the Assembly.

11. The Basis of the World Council

Dr. Payne reminded the Executive Committee of the resolution taken at New Haven to postpone discussion of the Basis until the Central Committee of 1958. The situation having been changed by the proposed postponement of the Assembly, no communications on the subject having been received from the churches, and in view of the heavy agenda of the Central Committee, it was suggested that the renewal of the debate on the Basis should be postponed until 1959. Individuals who had brought comments should be invited to express themselves to the Chairman of the Basis Committee or to the General Secretary. This was

AGREED.

12. Applications for membership

a) Eglise Evangélique du Cameroun - recommended to the Central Committee.

b) Hungarian Reformed Church in the U.S.A. - recommended to the Central Committee.

c) Philippine Independent Church - recommended to the Central Committee.

Bishop Sherrill said that this fine church was intimately connected with the Protestant Episcopal Church. It broke from the Roman Church in 1900. In 1947 the Protestant Episcopal Church transmitted orders to their Bishops. It had 1½ to 2 million members. The Lambeth Conference had expressed willingness in time to admit this church to full communion with the Anglican Churches.

Dr. Visser 't Hooft reported that some other expected applications had not arrived e.g. from the Coptic Evangelical Church. The Republic of Korea Presbyterian Church would probably join the Korean National Christian Council but had not formally completed application for membership of the W.C.C. There had been no reply to enquiries about the Lumpa Church in Northern Rhodesia (cf.Minutes Executive Committee, February 1958, page 24). A study of the whole question of relations with the African sects would eventually be required: the Joint Committee might be asked to look into the matter.

Mr. Dagadu said that the Christian Council of Ghana was making a study of the sect movement in Ghana and of its relations with the Council.

13. Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

Sir Kenneth Grubb reported on the recent meeting of the Executive of the C.C.I.A. A critique of the report of the Commission on the prevention of war in an atomic age, which represented the consensus of the opinion of the C.C.I.A. Executive had been placed in the hands of the General Secretary. A response to questions raised by Danish Churches regarding Christian concern with social and economic questions in underdeveloped territories had been prepared with the help of Dr. de Vries and the Study Division. The Yale statements on atomic armament and atomic tests had been re-examined in the light of developments and a short statement reasserting the Yale decisions had been prepared. On Cyprus the principles previously stated had been reaffirmed in a revised set of resolutions which were also acceptable to the delegates of the Greek Church present at Nyborg. Mr.Maurice Webb had given an excellent presentation of the problems of South Africa, the Rhodesias and Nyasaland. Further consideration had been given both to the study on Ethos and to the situation in Ceylon. It was felt that the most helpful action that could be taken with regard to the Middle East would be to hold a small unpublicised conference in Europe of people concerned with these areas including Roman Catholics and "men of goodwill". A private memorandum had been prepared summarizing points of emphasis for policy in the area. Some approach had also been made to the demographic problem.

Dr.Fry said that the General Secretary would welcome advice concerning the distribution of the critique of the report of the Commission on prevention of war in an atomic age. Dr. Baillie thought that the Committee would be better informed if both papers were available at an early moment. Dr. Nolde urged that with Dr.Freytag's consent the critique should be distributed at the same time that the positive presentations were made.

Dr.Bilheimer suggested that the leading members of the Commission present at Nyborg should be consulted. The purpose was to help Christian people to think through these issues, therefore both sides should be presented. Dr.Freytag had prepared a brief introductory statement emphasising the fact that the Report was intended as a contribution to a continuing study. Dr. Nolde objected that the Report was not in the form of a study document. If it went forward unchallenged it would represent dangers to the W.C.C.

Dr.Fry observed that the procedure to be followed must satisfy three needs: i) the C.C.I.A. must not appear to be involved in a jurisdictional dispute, therefore the critique must be presented by the General Secretary who had requested it and not by the C.C.I.A. ii) The Central Committee must be given all the material required for democratic discussion. iii) They must not give the impression of giving an immediate check to the speakers who would present the Report.

After further discussion informal agreement was reached that the report should be introduced by three speakers: Dr. Freytag, Dr. von Weizsäcker and Dr.Patijn, that there should then be general discussion: and that at the appropriate moment and in any case before the end of the same session, the General Secretary would introduce the critique.

14. Future Meetings

1) Executive Committee

a) Geneva, evening, Monday February 9th to morning Friday 13th, 1959 (To be preceded by the Programme and Finance Committee).

b) Athens evening, Monday August 17th to evening Tuesday 18th, 1959.

c) Buenos Aires, 8 - 12 February, 1960 preceded by a consultation (as in Australia) and followed by public meetings etc. so that the whole period February 5 - 14 should be reserved.

2) Central Committee

It was agreed to recommend to the Central Committee that the invitation of the British Council of Churches to meet in Scotland in 1960 should be accepted. (The dates suggested were August 15 - 24 and the place St.Andrews).

15. Actions regarding Bishop Ordass and Dr. Pap

On the proposal of Bishop Dibelius it was

AGREED a) that a letter should be sent by the General Secretary to the Lutheran World Federation telling them that Bishop Ordass was remembered in the Committee's discussions and prayers, expressing sympathy with the Federation over what had happened to its Vice-President, and expressing the desire of the W.C.C. to help Bishop Ordass in any possible way. The fact that such a letter had been sent should not be reported outside the meeting.

b) that an analogous letter should be sent to the Presbyterian World Alliance concerning Dr.Pap. saying that the Committee had remembered him in his absence and were prepared to do anything they could to help. They had no intention to approach Dr.Pap directly but they would like it to be made known to him if possible that he was not forgotten in the World Council. No reference to this letter should be made outside the membership of the Executive Committee and the General Secretariat.

16. Letter from the Archbishop of Athens

After some discussion it was informally agreed that the Officers should not press Professor Alivisatos not to bring the letter before the Central Committee, but that they should try to avoid a) an unhelpful debate in the Central Committee and b) action which might have serious repercussions on the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Officers should be left to take further action in the light of their discussion.

17. Invitation to Dr.Barnes to visit South Africa

Dr. Visser 't Hooft reported that Dr. Roswell Barnes had been invited by a non-governmental American - South African organization to visit South Africa in 1959. Such a visit would certainly be very useful; but there was a problem of time, and Dr. Blake might also be visiting South Africa in the same period. He asked the Executive Committee whether it would express approval in principle, but to leave the question of possibility to be decided between the Officers of the W.C.C. and the U.S.Conference and Dr.Barnes. Dean Pope said

that Dr. Barnes should go if possible. Dr.Fry suggested that the decision should be left to the Officers of the W.C.C. and the U.S. Conference.

18. Migration Study

It was AGREED to ask the Central Committee a) to take responsibility for a conference on this subject in 1960, and b) to set up a preparatory commission of experts in this realm.

19. Staffing Committee

The Executive Committee approved the report of the Staffing Committee as follows:

A. Reports on appointments filled

1. Mr. Schneider has taken up his post as Secretary for Accounts and Finance as provided by the action of the Executive Committee in Feb. 1958 .

2. Mlle Véronique Laufer has been engaged in fulfilment of the action of the Executive Committee in Feb.1958, and began her work August 1, 1958 for three years ending July 30, 1961.

B. Reappointments

The Staffing Committee recommends:

1. On nomination of the Working Committee of the Department on Faith and Order, the reappointment of Dr.Keith R.Bridston as Executive Secretary of the Department on Faith and Order until January 31, 1962.

2. The reappointment of Dr.Charles West to the staff of the Ecumenical Institute from April 1, 1959 to March 31, 1962; his title as of July 1, 1958 being Associate Director of the Ecumenical Institute.

3. The reappointment of Mr.Daisuke Kitagawa to January 31, 1962, with the possibility that he might be transferred from the Rapid Social Change study budget to the Assembly budget or to other projects.

4. The reappointment of Mr. Harry Partin to December 31, 1960 as secretary in the Division of Studies for the study on "The Word of God and the Living Faiths of Men", on the understanding that his salary is supplied by his own church.

5. The extension of the appointment of Miss Helen Turnbull as secretary in the Department on Cooperation of Men and Women in Church and Society for nine months to December 31, 1959, subject to satisfactory financial arrangements being made.

6. The reappointment of Mr.Eugene Schibli as Assistant Chief Accountant for the period March 1, 1959 to Feb. 28, 1962.

7. The reappointment of Mr.Heinz Spaeter as Assistant Chief Accountant for the period March 1, 1959 to February 28, 1962.

8. The reappointment of the Rev. William K. DuVal as Administrativ Secretary of the Division of I.C.A.S.R. for the period March 1, 1959 to February 28, 1962.

C. New Appointments

1. It was reported that the Rev. Howard Schomer had resigned as Inter-Church Aid Secretary for Europe, effective November 25, 1958. In lieu of a nomination at this time, the Staffing Committee recommends that the Chairman of the Central Committee and the Chairman of the Staffing Committee be empowered to make an appointment upon nomination from the Administrative Committee of the Division of I.C.A.S.R.

2. The Staffing Committee reports that the invitation extended to Mr.Klaus von Bismarck had been declined, that the Rev. H.R. Weber would therefore remain as Executive Secretary of the Department of the Laity, and recommends that the Rev. Tom Allan be invited to serve as Executive Secretary of the Department on Evangelism to January 31, 1962, subject to funds being found for his salary for the period of his service.

3. The Staffing Committee recommends

   a) That Mr.Andy Andrews be reappointed as Secretary in the Department on the Laity for the period January 1, 1959 to December 31, 1959 if funds for this reappointment are provided by his church.

   b) that if the Presbyterian Church U.S. recalls Mr. Andrews as of December 31, 1958, the Chairman of the Department on the Laity, the Chairman of the Staffing Committee and the General Secretary be authorized to make some other appointment, subject to funds being found for it outside the W.C.C. budget.

4. The Staffing Committee recommends that the Rev.Roderick French be appointed as Secretary in the Youth Department from the summer of 1959 to the summer of 1962, exact dates to be determined at a subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee.

D. Change in Status

The Staffing Committee recommends that Mlle Simone Mathil and Mrs. Moya Burton be considered as members of the Executive Staff.

Professor Florovsky said that the staff of the Faith and Order Department was quite inadequate. Not only was it impossible to develop new activities but it was not possible to carry out the approved programme. He expressed the firm desire that the Central and Executive Committees should give urgent attention to this need and take effective action. Dr.Visser 't Hooft said that the Programme and Finance Committee would consider the matter in the light of the report of the committee on the future of Faith and Order.

20. Report of Finance Sub-Committee

Dr. Blake presented the report of the Finance Sub-Committee which is quoted below with indication of the discussion and decisions of the Executive Committee on each item.

(a) General Budget 1957, 1958 and 1959

" The Finance Committee made an initial examination of this question prior to the joint meeting with the Staffing Committee and resumed the discussion after the joint meeting.

Since the Evanston Assembly, the Finance Committee has had to seek to cover deficits of growing magnitude on the General Budget. The accounts for 1957 ended with a deficit of about $ 18,000 and the 1958 operations are expected to end with a deficit of about $ 20,000. Both of these deficits could be covered by the use of the Special Reserve, which was created by contributions of member churches in the U.S.A. in recent years in excess of the objective for American giving. That reserve will, however, then be exhausted. The first forecast of 1959 operations suggested that, if the recommendation from the joint meeting with the Staffing Committee should be accepted, a deficit of not less than $ 36,500.- must be foreseen.

The development of this deficit position resulted mainly from rising costs or the decline in the value of money, from necessary improvements in employment conditions and provision for a retirement fund; the present operation covers no activities not authorized by the Evanston Assembly and, in fact, the staff engaged under the General Budget is slightly below the level on which the model budget approved by the Assembly was based.

The problem is whether the programme is to be maintained and the funds found to finance it. The Committee on Programme and Finance reported to the Executive Committee meeting last February that an increase in contributions would be needed after the Third Assembly. The Finance Committee considered whether an early increase in contributions could be requested now and, at the same time, notice be given that a further increase will be needed after the Third Assembly. It was felt that the rise in prices and the decline in the value of money since 1954 would be generally recognised. During the discussion at Evanston, some ground was given for an understanding that no further increase in contributions would be requested before the Third Assembly; the probable postponement of the Third Assembly by one year might however justify a review of that commitment.

Consideration was given to the increase in income which would be needed. The forecast of a deficit of about $ 36,500 in 1959 was made on very closely estimated figures and with no provision for contingencies. After discussion, the Committee felt that a 15% increase was the minimum which would provide a sufficient increase in income in 1959, 1960 and 1961 to cover the expenses which must be foreseen if the programme is to be maintained, including the cost of the proposed improvements in employment conditions.

The Finance Sub-Committee agreed to recommend that the following recommendations be forwarded to the Finance Committee of the Central Committee:

i) that the Central Committee call on member churches to increase their contributions by at least 15% beginning in 1960.

ii) that the Central Committee call to the attention of member churches that in view of the present inadequacy of income and the increase in expenses from January 1, 1959, it would be a great help if any churches which can do so, would make such an increase already in 1959, or make provision in their 1960 budgets for both an increased contribution in 1960 and a retro-active increase for 1959

In making these recommendations, the Finance Sub-Committee noted the following important factors: the Central Committee action should both explain the reasons for the need of increased contributions and recognise that some churches will find it extremely difficult to make an increase in 1959 or even in 1960 on the basis of a request in August 1958; that a submission from the Programme and Finance Committee will be discussed at length at an early point on the Central Committee agenda and should give some guidance to the Finance Committee for its discussion; and that any Central Committee decision to call for an early increase in contributions must be related to the probability of a request for a further increase at the time of the Third Assembly."

Dr. Blake recalled that, though the Finance Committee has had to deal with deficit problems since the Evanston Assembly, $ 20,000 has been added to both the General Reserve and the Reserve for the Expenses of the Third Assembly in each year. Whereas up till 1958 it has been possible to handle deficits by use of the Special Reserve, in 1959, especially in view of the proposed increases in salaries and allowances for Executive Staff at Geneva headquarters, it would be necessary to secure increased income.

The Executive Committee
AGREED to forward recommendations (i) and (ii) above with endorsement to the Finance Committee of the Central Committee.

(b) Personnel Questions

" i) The Finance Sub-Committee examined and gave approval to the proposed action on a particular problem concerning one senior staff member.

ii) The Finance Sub-Committee approved a revision of the provision concerning children's allowances adopted in 1951, designed to secure that a recent increase in state children's allowances in Geneva should be passed on to staff members and not applied in reduction of the supplementary World Council allowances."

The Executive Committee
AGREED to adopt the above recommendations.

(c) London Office Bank Account

" The Finance Sub-Committee adopted the following formal resolution concerning the London bank account:

RESOLVED: That a banking account for the World Council of Churches be continued with Midland Bank Ltd. at their Russell Square branch and that the Bank be and is hereby empowered to honour cheques, orders for payment, bills of exchange and promissory notes drawn, signed or accepted or made on behalf of the said World Council of Churches by any

two of the persons listed below and to act on any instructions given by the persons so authorized with regard to any accounts whether in credit or overdrawn or any transactions of the said World Council of Churches.

Authorized Cheque Signatories:

Dr. Ernest A. Payne, Vice-Chairman of Central Committee
Rev. Kenneth Slack, Secretary, British Council of Churches
Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft, General Secretary
Dr. Robert S. Bilheimer, Associate General Secretary
Dr. Leslie E. Cooke, Associate General Secretary
Rev. Francis H. House, Associate General Secretary
Mr. Frank Northam, Director of Department of Finance and Administration
Mr. Andreas Schneider, Secretary for Accounts and Finance
Mr. Wolfgang Kordon, Chief Accountant."

The Executive Committee
AGREED to adopt the above recommendation.

(d) Purchase of property for Melbourne office of Service to Refugees

" At the request and recommendation of the Administrative Committee of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees, the Finance Committee agreed to recommend to the Executive Committee.

that authority be given for two of those officers empowered to commit the World Council of Churches by their joint signature, to execute a power of attorney in the name of the World Council of Churches empowering the Perpetual Executors and Trustees Association of Melbourne, Australia, to acquire and hold title to a property in Melbourne, Australia, needed for the accomodation of the office in that city of the Service to Refugees."

Mr. Northam gave supplementary information in explanation of the decision that the purchase of property represented the most economical way to secure the needed new office accomodation and, recognising that this recommendation had been made after careful examination of the problem by the Administrative Committee of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees, the Executive Committee
AGREED to adopt the recommendation.

21 Headquarters properties

Dr. Blake presented the report of the Headquarters Properties Committee which is quoted below, with a record of the discussion and decisions of the Executive Committee following each section of the report.

" The Headquarters Properties Committee was informed that agreement had been reached with the authorities of the City of Geneva under which the World Council properties at route de Malagnou of an area of 8,056 sqm would be exchanged against a city-owned property at Grand Saconnex of an area of about 34,000 sqm on the basis that the properties are of equal value and no cash payment will be made by either party. Further, the authorities will grant to the World

Council a lease for the occupation of the Malagnou properties until the new headquarters have been built and the lease will provide rent-free occupation for the first three years. These arrangements still require ratification by the Administrative and Municipal Councils of the City of Geneva but it was reported that this ratification was virtually assured.

After receiving a full report on the new site and receiving full information concerning the relative values of the properties, the Headquarters Properties Committee agreed to recommend:

a) that the proposed exchange of properties with the City of Geneva be approved, and

b) that authority be given to two of those officers empowered to commit the World Council of Churches by their joint signature, to execute a power of attorney in the name of the World Council of Churches empowering the Director of the Department of Finance and Administration, together with the General Secretary, to execute the legal documents effecting this exchange of properties. "

The Executive Committee discussed the above recommendations and received a report on the relative values of the two properties to be exchanged. It was noted that the terms of the exchange were considered generous to the World Council of Churches. The Executive Committee further noted that action on the first recommendation should be taken by the Central Committee and

AGREED to recommend (a) above to the Central Committee and to adopt recommendation (b) above, subject to approval by the Central Committee of the main recommendation.

"The Headquarters Properties Committee then studied two alternative preliminary plans prepared by the architects for the new buildings. Unanimous preference was expressed for the plan involving one unified building. That plan was received with general approval, subject only to a desire to see more detailed and developed plans for the chapel and to review those plans. The Headquarters Properties Committee agreed to recommend:

c) that general approval be granted to the preliminary plans submitted by the architects."

The Executive Committee examined both the architects' plans and the model for the plan recommended by the Headquarters Properties Committee and

AGREED to recommend (c) above to the Central Committee.

"First rough estimates of costs were then examined. It was noted that the plans provided for construction in three stages and it was felt that the initial endeavour should be to secure funds sufficient to cover the cost of stages 1 and 2. After a full examination of the figures, the Headquarters Properties Committee concluded that the objective should be to raise a fund of $ 2 1/2 million. It was reported that a little over $ 90,000 had so far been received in response to the appeal made at Davos to the member churches to accept responsibility for the raising of $ 300,000 but that

there were assurances in hand which indicated that, once plans were adopted, fulfilment of the total of $ 300,000 would follow within a relatively short time. The Headquarters Properties Committee felt that a committee of individuals of high reputation and ability from a number of different countries should be asked to accept responsibility for seeking to raise the balance of the needed sum and agreed:

d) that the amount required for the Headquarters Properties Fund be established at $ 2 1/2 million.

e) that Bishop Sherrill be asked to serve as General Chairman of a committee responsible, with the support of all the officers and staff of the Council, for raising the needed funds and that the Central Committee be asked to name the members of that committee. "

Dr Blake explained that the magnitude of the sum needed had surprised the Headquarters Properties Committee. Mr. Northam gave details of the estimates on the basis of which the figure of $ 2 1/2 million had been determined. Dr. Blake explained that the recommendation was that sufficient funds should be sought to permit the completion of both stages 1 and 2 of the architects' plan but that it was not suggested that at the present time any definite decision should be taken as to whether the buildings involved in stage 2 should be constructed simultaneously with those in stage 1. Dr. Blake expressed the hope that Bishop Sherrill would agree to act as General Chairman of the committee for the raising of the funds.

Bishop Sherrill explained his reluctance to take on so heavy a responsibility and stated that he could only consider it provided that the Executive and Central Committees recognised the need to provide a budget for such expenses as travel, secretarial services, publications, mailing, etc., and provided that the members of the Executive and Central Committees are prepared to give devoted and consecrated service in assisting the Committee, recognising that this is not just a task of raising funds for a new headquarters but a magnificent opportunity to inform the constituency of the World Council about its objectives and activities and to enlist their support. He envisaged meetings all over the world at which the programme would be explained and interest aroused and expressed the conviction that the objective should be more than to seek to secure funds from a small number of wealthy individuals and foundations. If this task was to be undertaken, it should be planned during the Central Committee meeting and work started at the earliest possible moment.

Dr. Blake explained that it was hoped that the fund- raising campaign could be started without delay and that building operations might start in the autumn of 1959.

The Executive Committee
AGREED to adopt recommendations (d) and (e) above as recommendations to the Central Committee.

" The Headquarters Properties Committee examined procedure and timing and agreed to recommend:

f) that, if the foregoing recommendations are accepted by the Executive Committee, they be reported fully to the present Central Committee meeting and that it be suggested to the Central Committee:

i) that the architects should be requested to develop the plans further with a view to the presentation as soon as possible, but not later than the February Executive, of detailed plans for the chapel, byt the February Executive of further studies of the total plan and by the 1959 Central Committee meeting of full detailed plans with detailed cost estimates based on bids from contractors.

ii) that in February 1959 the Headquarters Properties Committee and the Executive Committee review both architects' plans and progress in fund raising.

iii) that the objective be for approval to be granted to final plans at the 1959 Central Committee meeting and that, provided that the progress made in fund raising is deemed satisfacotry, authorization might then be given for construction to be started in the autumn of 1959.

iv) that the completion of building should then be achieved by the end of 1961. "

Dr. Blake explained that the architects' preliminary plans were without detail and the Headquarters Properties Committee wished to study more detailed plans for the chapel. Dr. Pope expressed the view that fund-raising was extremely difficult after construction had started and impossible after building was completed, and qus-questioned whether the suggested timing allowed sufficient time for fund raising. Dr. Blake pointed out that the recommendation covered this point and a decision as to the timing of the commencement of building work would have to be taken at the 1959 Central Committee meeting.

The Executive Committee
AGREED to pass the above recommendations with endorsement to the Central Committee.

The Executive Committee gave further thought to the composition of the fund-raising committee. Dr. Blake suggested that the international committee should have from 15 to 25 members. Bishop Sherrill hoped that the membership would include prominent laymen and suggested that there might be in addition to the General Chairman, Chairmen in other countries or areas who would have national or regional committees. Members of the Executive Committee were asked to make suggestions as to persons who might serve on the committee.

The meeting adjourned on Thursday, August 21 at noon.

Confidential Minute of Executive Session of Executive Committee, August 21st, 1958

Staffing problems

Dr. Payne presented the following report:

" The Finance Committee and the Staffing Committee held a joint meeting and considered a paper prepared by the Chairmen of the two committees. This paper presented a reasoned statement concluding that the present salary scales and employment conditions at Geneva headquarters are not adequate to render possible the retention of and the engagement of a staff of the competence and quality desired for the World Council and therefore made recommendations for particular improvements. The joint meeting discussed the problem at length, The basic conclusion that employment terms should be improved was generally accepted. The joint meeting felt that the proposed improvements were insufficient to remove the danger that the securing and retention of the desired staff might be rendered difficult but recognised that these proposals would represent an improvement and that they would involve an increase in expenditure under the General Budget of about $ 13,500 p.a. from January 1, 1959 and might therefore well be the maximum possible at this time, in the light of the financial position. The joint meeting agreed to recommend:

a) that the proposals for the improvement of employment conditions at Geneva Headquarters be approved in principle;

b) that the General Secretariat be directed to develop suggestions for the detailed implementation of proposals for submission to the Executive Committee meeting in February 1959 with a view to adoption with retroactive effect to January 1, 1959; and

c) that the study of this problem should be continued with a view to the submission of further proposals to the Third Assembly."

Dr. Payne explained the nature of the proposals referred to under (a) above and also of the objectives at which these proposals were aimed. He pointed out that their effect would not be great or adequate and that it was for that reason that proposal (c) above was made. In reply to a question from Dr.Niemöller, Dr.Payne confirmed that the intention was that the 1959 budget should make provision for the increased expense involved but that no expense would actually be incurred until final decisions were taken by the Executive Committee in February 1959.

The Executive Committee AGREED to adopt the recommendations (a) to (c) above.